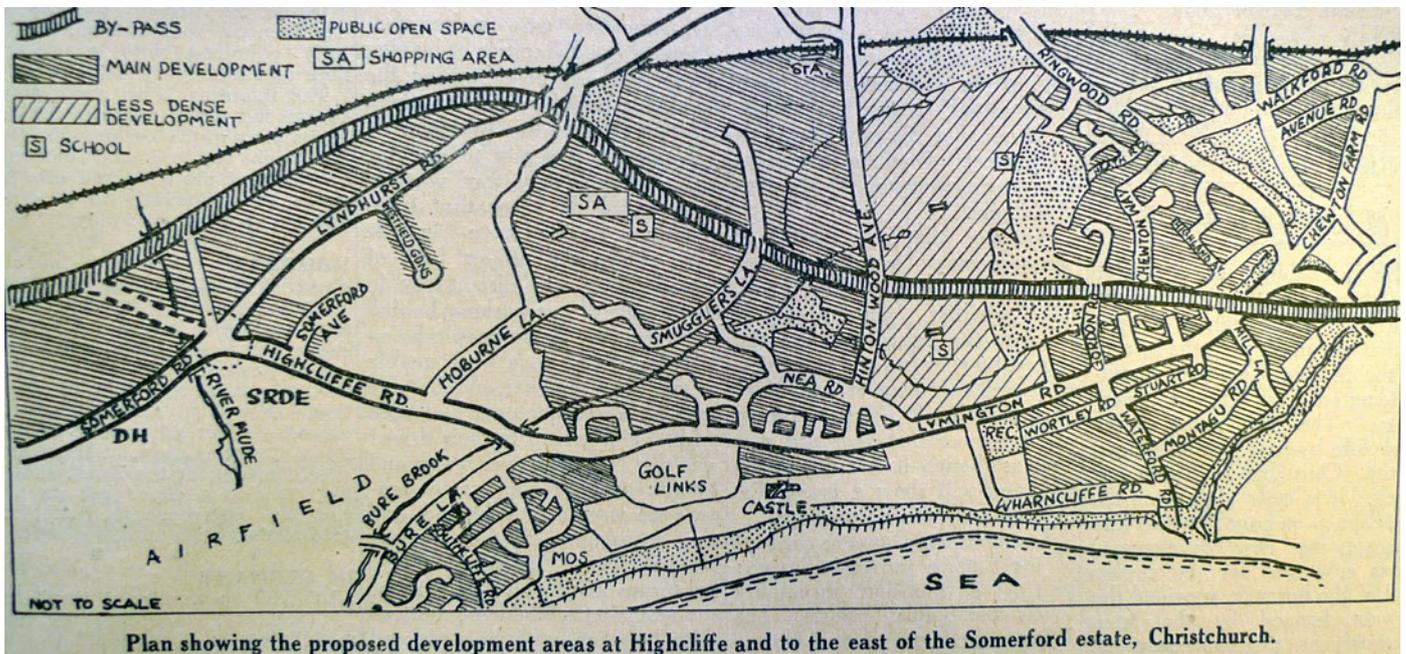


# ANOTHER 500 ACRES OF HOUSES AT HIGHCLIFFE

C.T. August 5, 1955



**With an estimated 3,000 jump in the Christchurch population within 20 years, Highcliffe has been earmarked as the main development area for the Borough.**

**County Planning proposals have already allowed for a Highcliffe by-pass through to the proposed Christchurch by-pass from the Somerford area to the new Pit roundabout.**

Also planned is extensive residential development throughout the Highcliffe area and the erection of three schools, two primary and one secondary.

General character of the area, however, will be preserved as far as possible. It is also possible that the proposed development may be subject to further consideration as a result of a recent statement by the Minister of Housing and Local Government, Mr. Duncan Sandys, that he intended to call for the creation of clearly defined Green Belts in order to prevent further un-restricted building development around large urban areas.

## MINISTER'S CIRCULAR

In a circular to local planning authorities, the Minister states that: "Inside a Green Belt approval should not be given, except in very special circumstances, for the construction of new buildings, or for the change of use of existing buildings for purposes other than agriculture, sport, cemeteries, institutions standing in extensive grounds, or other uses appropriate to a rural area.

"Apart from a strictly limited amount of 'infilling' or 'rounding off,' within boundaries to be defined in town maps, existing towns and villages inside a Green Belt should not be allowed to expand further. Even within the urban areas thus defined, every effort should be made to prevent any further building for industrial or commercial purposes."

## AIRFIELD.

Problem piece in the development of the borough is the Christchurch airfield. Development of the area for housing was a feature of the Hampshire County Development Plan submitted to the Minister of Housing and Local Government three years ago, but the scheme was deleted by the Minister in approving the plan.

Whether extension of the airfield is envisaged or further effort will be made for the land to go to housing is not known. At present, however, a height restriction on land to the N.E. of the landing ground governs the extent of any building on the Highcliffe side of the airfield.

Loss of the airfield for housing, however, has meant that other areas must be opened to meet the increasing population.

#### MAJOR AREA.

Approximately 500 acres to the east of the height restriction line are now scheduled for housing. Major part of this new development will be between Hinton Wood Avenue and Hoburne Lane, allowing for in the region of 1,000 new houses, an extensive open space, shopping area and primary school.

For the land to the west of Hinton Wood Avenue two schools are included in the proposals, one of them to be a secondary school. To the south development is already taking place in the Highcliffe Castle area, but the County Planning authorities are hoping to be able to preserve an open belt at least 200 yards wide along the cliff top.

Further possible development area towards the east of the borough is an extension from the Somerford estate to Roeshot Hill, limited by the Corporation boundary to the north. The proposed Highcliffe by-pass is planned to run to the north of this land before linking with the Christchurch by-pass.